OFFICE HOURS

Location: McKinley 156

Times: Tuesdays 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm
        Thursdays 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Phone:

Email: nbaron at american.edu

READING

Required Purchases:

Notes:
1. There is a Blackboard site for this course. Please be sure you are logged on to this site by Monday, January 17 at the latest. If you have trouble logging on, please contact the university Office of Information Technology (202-885-2550 or help@american.edu).

2. Some additional readings may be distributed in class or placed on reserve in the library and/or on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular class attendance and participation (5 points)
2. Homework (10 points)
   NOTE: Homework assignments (some of which will be reviewed in class) will be collected at the end of the semester.
3. Three in-class exams (18 points + 18 points + 24 points = 60 points)
4. Two-part language journal (6 points + 6 points = 12 points)
5. Team linguistics-in-context project (13 points)

COURSE POLICIES

All course work is subject to the standards and procedures of the University Academic Integrity Code. All work must be one's own unless appropriate collaboration has been approved in advance.

From time to time, I will use the email function of Blackboard to communicate with you. Email will automatically be sent to your AU email address. However, you can select to have your AU email forwarded to any email address you choose (see the “Technology” section of my.american.edu). PLEASE BE SURE THAT YOU ARE RECEIVING EMAIL FROM YOUR AU EMAIL ADDRESS.
NOTES:
(1) Reading assignments:
Should be completed by the class date for which they are listed. While the examinations will focus on the reading in Fromkin et al., the reading in Crystal will prove very useful for deepening your understanding and enriching any essay questions.

(2) Homework assignments from Fromkin et al.:
Should be written out and brought to class on the date assignment is listed. We will review selected problems in class. Problems not assigned make good practice exercises and might appear on exams. A copy of the answer key is on reserve in Bender Library. HOWEVER, you are strongly advised only to consult it AFTER attempting the problems.

(3) Reference materials:
Make liberal use of the glossary in the back of Fromkin et al. and of reference dictionaries and encyclopedias in the P29 call number area of the AU Library Reference collection. Some particularly useful titles are:

DICTIONARIES:

ENCYCLOPEDIAS:

OVERVIEW:
1. Jan 11 What is Language?; Video: “Colorless Green Ideas”
2. Jan 18 “Standard American English”; Brain and Language
3. Jan 25 Morphology
4. Feb 1 JOURNAL SUBMISSION I due; Syntax
5. Feb 8 Syntax (cont.); Review for Exam I
6. Feb 15 EXAM I; The Meaning of Language (Semantics)
7. Feb 22 Review Exam I; Phonetics
8. Mar 1 Phonetics (cont.); Discuss linguistics-in-context projects
9. Mar 8 NO CLASS (AU Spring Break)
10. Mar 15 Phonology; Review for Exam II
12. Apr 5 Language Change; Video: “In Search of the First Language”
13. Apr 12 Language Change (cont.); Writing [no homework]; Review for Exam III; Course evaluations
14. Apr 19 EXAM III; SUBMIT HOMEWORK
15. May 3 PRESENT LINGUISTICS-IN-CONTEXT PROJECTS / potluck dinner
NOTE: Dates for optional review sessions (all 4:00 – 5:15 pm, in McKinley 156 Conference Room)
Sunday, February 13 (Exam I on February 15)
Thursday, March 17 (Exam II on March 23)
Sunday, April 17 (Exam III on April 19)

1. Tuesday, January 11
TOPIC: What is Language?
VIDEO: “Colorless Green Ideas” (VHS 2962, part I)

2. Tuesday, January 18
BLACKBOARD DB1 and DB2:
Do postings to “Discussion Board” (Forum 1 and Forum 2) on class Blackboard site.
Please post by 7 pm on Monday, January 17. To do a posting,
(1) Log on to Blackboard
(2) Select our class (TESL 500 Principles of Linguistics Spring 2011)
(3) Select “Discussion Board” (from left-hand column)
(4) Click on Forum 1: By Way of Introduction
(5) Click on the most recent message (listed on left)
(6) Click “Reply” (lower right hand corner)
(7) Post own entry
(8) Repeat the procedure for Forum 2: What I Really Want to Know about Language is …
If you are unable to get your postings to go through, please email them to me and I will post them on your behalf. (Then please work with the Office of Information Technology ASAP.)

TOPICS: “Standard American English”; Brain and Language
READING:
Fromkin et al. (= An Introduction to Language)
Chapter 1. What Is Language?
Chapter 2. Brain and Language
Crystal (= The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language)
Part I: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Part VIII: Chapter 45
Part XI: Chapters 64, 65
Blackboard Readings
Packet on Brain and Language

HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 1: 2, 5, 8
Chapter 2: 2, 8
3. Tuesday, January 25
TOPIC: Morphology
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 3. Morphology
Crystal
Part III: Chapters 13, 14, 15
HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 3: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9

4. Tuesday, February 1
JOURNAL SUBMISSION I due
TOPIC: Syntax
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 4. Syntax (pp. 115-150)
Crystal
Part III: Chapter 16
HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 4: 3, 6, 7, 13

5. Tuesday, February 8
LINGUISTICS-IN-CONTEXT PROJECTS: Discuss
NOTE: Blackboard DB 3 open for brainstorming topics, team members
TOPIC: Syntax (cont.)
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 4. Syntax (pp. 150-163)
HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 4: 18, 19
REVIEW FOR EXAM I

6. Tuesday, February 15
EXAM I (Covers Fromkin et al., Chapters 1-4; video; class discussion)
TOPIC: The Meaning of Language (Semantics)
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 5. The Meaning of Language
Crystal
Part III: Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
Blackboard Readings
HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 5: 6, 8, 13, 16
7. Tuesday, February 22
Review Exam I
LINGUISTICS-IN-CONTEXT PROJECTS: Introduction to Experimental Design; Form Groups
TOPIC: Phonetics
READING:
  Fromkin et al.
  Chapter 6. Phonetics
HOMEWORK DUE:
  Fromkin et al.
  Chapter 6: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

8. Tuesday, March 1
LINGUISTICS–IN-CONTEXT PROJECTS: Submit Topics and Groups; Schedule meetings with Professor Baron for Tuesday, March 15
TOPIC: Phonetics (cont.)
READING:
  Fromkin et al.
  REREAD: Chapter 6. Phonetics
  Crystal
  Part IV: Chapters 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
HOMEWORK DUE:
  Fromkin et al.
  Chapter 6: 6, 9, 10, 11

Tuesday, March 8
  NO CLASS (Spring Break)

9. Tuesday, March 15
TOPIC: Phonology
READING:
  Fromkin et al.
  Chapter 7. Phonology (pp. 255-282; 286-292)
  Crystal
  Part IV: Chapters 28, 29, 30
HOMEWORK:
  Fromkin et al.
  Chapter 7: 3, 6, 9, 11
REVIEW FOR EXAM II

NOTE: Discuss Linguistics-in-Context projects with Professor Baron during office hours, after class (see sign-up sheet)

10. Tuesday, March 22
EXAM II (Covers Fromkin et al., Chapters 5-6; class discussion)
TOPIC: Language Acquisition
VIDEO: “Chimp Talk” (DVD 1419)
       “He Said, She Said” (VHS 2802)
11. Tuesday, March 29
BLACKBOARD DB4:
Reflect on the video “He Said, She Said” and upon the reading for this week by Shigeko Okamoto. Then comment on one (1) interesting difference between the way that Americans and that Japanese use language in a gendered way. In writing your posting, please make use of the relevant linguistic concepts we have been studying this semester.
Please post by 7 pm on Monday, March 28.

JOURNAL SUBMISSION II due

Review Exam II
TOPICS: Language Acquisition, Language in Society
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 8. Language Acquisition
Chapter 10. Language in Society
Crystal
Part II: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Part IX: Chapter 55
Blackboard Reading

HOMEWORK:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 8: 2, 9
Chapter 10: 1, 5, 6

12. Tuesday, April 5
TOPIC: Language Change
VIDEO: “In Search of the First Language” (VHS 3090)
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 11. Language Change
Crystal
Part IX: 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54

HOMEWORK DUE:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 11: 1, 2, 6, 11

13. Tuesday, April 12
TOPIC: Language Change (cont.), Writing
READING:
Fromkin et al.
Chapter 12. Writing: The ABCs of Language

REVIEW FOR EXAM III
Course Evaluations
14. Tuesday, April 19
EXAM III (Covers Fromkin et al., Chapters 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12; videos; class discussion)
ALL HOMEWORK DUE:
   Bring completed homework (10 assignments) neatly arranged in a folder with your name on it.
   Each assignment should have your name and the chapter number on it. Please arrange the
   homework in chapter order, stapling together all pages from a single chapter. Homework is due
   from the following chapters:
       1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10, and 11
   You will receive 1 point for each completed homework set. Don’t spend efforts typing up or
   copying over your homework (unless you are doing so for your own benefit). The quality of
   your efforts will come through in your original.

Tuesday, April 26       NO CLASS (Study Day)

Wednesday, April 27:   Linguistics-in-Context write-ups due by 12:00 noon

15. Tuesday, May 3
Present Linguistics-in-Context Projects
Pot Luck Dinner

Exams and papers will be available to be picked up in McKinley 156 by Thursday, May 5. Grades for
all individual course components will be posted on the “Grade Book” function on Blackboard, and
final grades for the course will be posted, through the Registrar’s Office, online.